

Intangible Cultural Heritage Update

News and updates on
Newfoundland and Labrador's
Intangible Cultural
Heritage Program

April 2010

ich@heritagefoundation.ca

ISSN 1918-7408



In this issue

Page 1	Branch, St. Mary's Bay
Page 2	Routes Taken
Page 3	The Memory Project
Page 4	Boatbuilding Online
Page 4	Oral History Talk

Branch Digital Archives Collection

A new collection of photos about placenames in Branch has been added to the Digital Archives Initiative, such as this one above showing children cresting Jimmy's Hill on tricycles, circa 1981.

Branch is a small community of less than 400 people located in St. Mary's Bay on the Avalon Peninsula of Newfoundland.

According to oral tradition, Branch saw its first settler in the late eighteenth century when an Irishman named Thomas Nash built a home there. Several years after settling, Nash is said to have returned to Ireland to perform his Easter duties because there was no local priest present.

When he returned, he brought two friends, each of whom would go on to marry Nash's daughters. More homes were built to support the growing families and thus, the community of Branch was born.

The Branch inventory is a collection of photographs and associated information on the places in and around Branch, St. Mary's Bay. The collection focuses on place names and their history as a way to portray the close relationship between people, land and ocean. The intangible cultural heritage of Branch is centered around a close relationship with nature. This collection provides a glimpse at the vast repository of knowledge regarding self-sufficient, self-sustainable, and environmentally friendly living.

Research for this collection was conducted between Summer 2008 and early-2010 by the Branch Cultural Historical Association with funding provided by the Cultural Economic Development Program of the Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation. The presented material is a portion of that gathered from oral interviews with residents and those who grew up in Branch, as well as research of local and provincial written and online material. Researchers included Lorna English, Linda O'Keefe and Margaret Power. Kenneth Nash was very generous in sharing parts of his personal research collection. The text was written by Michael Mooney.

You can find the Branch collection under "Community Profiles" at <http://www.mun.ca/ich/inventory>

Routes Taken, Roots Placed

The Refugee and Immigrant Advisory Council (RIAC) has launched a community project which will document the life stories of culturally diverse seniors.



RIAC is a non-profit organization that provides advice, support, and settlement services to immigrants and refugees. Its services are available to those experiencing cultural, linguistic, or other barriers regardless of nationality, religion or cultural background.

The “Routes Taken, Roots Placed” project will reach out to seniors of diverse ethno-cultural origins and will support them in sharing their wisdom and experience with youth, other seniors and the community at large. The project will document oral histories of these seniors, in order to capture narratives of 'life routes' that have led individuals to 'lay roots' in the province.

The project will promote recognition and understanding of Newfoundland and Labrador's cultural diversity. The oral histories, accompanying artworks, and documentary film will be showcased

through storytelling events, art exhibits, and a film screening at the St. John's International Women's Film Festival.

Project activities will also be documented in a way that can be shared with the general public, and used as a resource for schools and community organizations looking to promote diversity and support the transfer of knowledge between seniors and others in the community.

On April 9th, the province's Intangible Cultural Heritage office provided a workshop for participants, giving a basic introduction to collecting stories and memories as part of an oral history project. Participants started by sharing stories of themselves and places that were important to them, and then drew a conceptual map of the place they grew up and walked others through their map of memories.

Dale Jarvis of the Heritage Foundation and Victoria Wells of the St. John's International Women's Film Festival then coached the participants in doing recorded oral history interviews, taking them through the basics of interviewing and developing sample questions.

Keep a look out for a showcase and public reading at the Eastern Edge Gallery and a screening of the film at the Women's Film Festival in October!



For more information on RIAC, you can visit online at <http://www.riac.ca>

The Memory Project: Stories of the Second World War

"But the truck exploded in such a manner, almost wiped us out, we were that close. We were only about 100, 150 feet from it and brother, that was an awful explosion."

Those are the words of Frank "Jiggs" Borland from Bishop's Falls, Newfoundland, who served in the 14th Canadian Hussars during the Second World War.

Frank's story is one of hundreds that are being collected as part of "The Memory Project: Stories of the Second World War."

An initiative of the Historica-Dominion Institute, The Memory Project is creating an unprecedented record of Canada's participation in the Second World War as seen through the eyes of thousands of men and women who were there. The Institute is providing every living Canadian Second World War veteran with the opportunity to preserve their memories through recorded interviews and digitized memorabilia.

Their stories will be available, in both official languages, at www.thememoryproject.com.

The Memory Project will touch down in Newfoundland this summer to collect more stories from local veterans. Veterans who would rather participate from their own homes can take part as well, as the Institute's interviewers are able to record a veteran's story over the phone.

"...at that moment, there was a civilian photographer snapped the picture of myself, I'm on the radio then at that moment, I'm sending a message back down the line to the relay that, and the message read: "Francis is alive and well," remembering that Francis was the code name for Dieppe, "Francis is alive and well, we will expect his friends for dinner." And that told the people down the line that Dieppe is liberated, that means that you can send the infantry in now."

– Frank Borland, as told on www.thememoryproject.com



THE MEMORY PROJECT
STORIES
OF THE SECOND
WORLD WAR

**ARE YOU A VETERAN OF
THE SECOND WORLD WAR
AND WOULD LIKE TO SHARE
YOUR STORY OF SERVICE?**

**THE MEMORY PROJECT: STORIES
OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR**
is providing every living Second
World War veteran with an
opportunity to preserve their
memories through recorded
interviews and digitized
memorabilia. These stories will
be shared with Canadians through
an online digital archive at:

WWW.THEMEMORYPROJECT.COM

Contact us to get involved.
If you're interested, or know a veteran
who would be interested in this project,
please contact us toll free at:

1.866.701.1867

or by email:
memory@historica-dominion.ca





Canadian
Heritage

Patrimoine
canadien



Photo:

Liberation of Dieppe, September 1, 1944. Car #219 of the 14th Canadian Hussars (8th Recce Regiment) amid a crowd of French civilians. Crew of Car #219: Gunner/Radio Operator Jiggs Borland (on radio); Driver Sandy Fennel; Crew Commander Adrian Mercey.

Dr. David Taylor Boatbuilding Interviews To Be Digitized

- by Chris Moulard, Digital Archives Initiative Intern

In the late 1970s American folklorist, David Taylor conducted a series of interviews while researching his thesis, "Boatbuilding in Winterton: The Design, Construction and Use of Inshore Fishing Boats in a Newfoundland Community". These interviews were conducted in the Trinity Bay area of Newfoundland and Labrador and focused on eight boat-builders from the area. While the direct focus of Mr. Taylor's research centered on the methods and materials used in the construction of inshore fishing boats, the men being interviewed would often provide personal narratives of their lives.

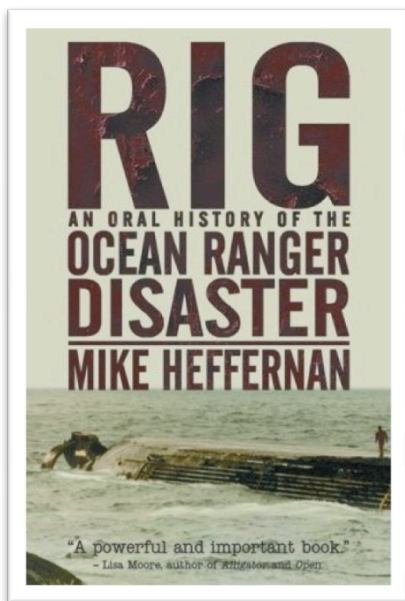
Also included among Mr. Taylor's research is an interview conducted with Roger Pearson, Head of the Department of Naval Architecture and Ship Building, Fisheries College of Navigation and Engineering, St. John's, Newfoundland. Mr. Pearson discusses his involvement in various educational programs aimed at teaching newer generations of out-port fishers the classic principles of Newfoundland boat-building (a set of skills which have become distinctly less-common with the passage of time).

These recordings are an interesting representation of the intangible cultural heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador. They give us an appreciation for the knowledge, skills, hard work and way of life for many twentieth-century outport Newfoundlanders.

Stay tuned for more information as the recordings are digitized and placed online.

Public Talk on Writing Oral History

On Tuesday April 13, Mike Heffernan, author of *Rig: An Oral History of the Ocean Ranger Disaster*, and Raoul Andersen and John Crellin, co-editors of *Mi'sel Joe: An Aboriginal Chief's Journey*, will host an enlightening discussion on oral history followed by a question and answer period.



The three writers will talk about the importance of preserving oral history, their experiences collecting this type of history, and how they then organized the material into book form. After a brief talk by each writer, the floor will be opened for members of the audience to ask any questions they may have on oral history, writing, or the subject matter of the two books.

"Oral history is not just about the past but the present," says Heffernan. "Our interpretation of events reveals much of how we understand our society."

Rig: An Oral History of the Ocean Ranger Disaster, is a collection of first-person accounts and previously unpublished photographs, describes events as they unfolded from those most greatly affected-victims' families, former rig workers, emergency responders and government officials.

Mi'sel Joe: An Aboriginal Chief's Journey chronicles both the life of an individual and that of his people. Mi'sel Joe is the traditional and administrative chief of Newfoundland's Conne River Mi'kmaq Reserve. Through a series of taped interviews with Raoul Andersen and John Crellin, Mi'sel Joe tells his life story and speaks of a community fighting for the right to determine its own future.

The talk takes place 7:00pm AC Hunter Adult Library, 2nd Floor, St. John's Arts and Culture Centre, 125 Allandale Road.

Intangible Cultural Heritage Update

Editor: Dale Jarvis, ICH Development Officer, Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador
PO Box 5171, St. John's, NL Canada A1C 5V5 ich@heritagefoundation.ca